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CARPET GRASS (*Paspalum compressum*).

This is a creeping, perennial grass, taking root from each joint as does Bermuda. It grows best on the sandy soils of the South Atlantic and Gulf coasts. It will bear hard trampling and grazing and usually establishes itself in pastures on such soils when they are closely grazed. It is well distributed over the Gulf coast from South Carolina to Texas and extends northward to southern Arkansas. It is seldom affected by heat or drought and is a good soil binder. For years it has been gradually spreading both north and west. Where it is well adapted it rapidly and thoroughly covers the ground. Frost turns carpet grass yellowish brown. In the far south, where frost seldom occurs, it usually remains green all winter. It is found growing luxuriantly on embankments in most of the rice fields along the South Carolina coast.

Carpet grass spreads readily from seed, but as comparatively little is produced and it is seldom harvested, the grass is almost entirely propagated by sets, or small pieces of sod. To obtain a good sod of carpet grass the land should be well prepared to a depth of 6 to 8 inches, and for lawns it should be well fertilized with 20 or more tons per acre of well-rotted stable manure. This manure should be free from weed seeds. In case it is not convenient to secure an ample supply, a smaller quantity of stable manure may be supplemented with 500 to 1,000 pounds per acre of high-grade fertilizer. It is impossible to make good lawns without ample application of fertilizers. The manure should be applied broadcast after the land is broken, and harrowed well into the soil. If carpet grass is to be used for pasture, a smaller quantity of fertilizer will suffice.

If for lawns, the plants may be set about 12 inches apart each way. If for pasture, the sets or pieces of sod may be placed 2 to 3 feet apart. In planting small lawns it is usually best to put out the sets with a trowel or some other hand tool. For pastures or large lawns it is more economical to plow the land again and drop the sets or pieces of sod the proper distance apart in the furrows. The land should be rolled after setting carpet grass to press the loose soil close around the plants.

This grass produces a thick mat of leaves near the ground, sending up slender, naked seed stalks. It is never cut for hay, though sometimes the stems with seed on are cut and spread where it is desired to start the grass in a new place. It furnishes considerable feed in pastures and is highly relished by all classes of stock. It is an excellent grass that deserves more attention than it has received. One always finds it closely cropped where stock can get to it, and it bears close cropping and trampling as well as Bermuda, or even better.

